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FOIA Officer
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April 05, 2020

FOIA REQUEST

Fee waiver requested

Dear FOIA Officer:

Pursuant to the federal Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552, I request access to and copies of I request access to and copies of TSA checkpoint passenger throughput for Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport for each day in the timespan of both March 1 - April 5, 2020 and the matching weekdays for this timespan in 2019.

An example of this data on a national level is available here on the TSA's website: <https://www.tsa.gov/coronavirus/passenger-throughput>

I would like to receive the information in an Excel spreadsheet or CSV file.

I agree to pay reasonable fees for the processing of this request up to \$50. Please notify me before incurring any expenses in excess of that amount.

Fee Categorization

For fee categorization purposes, I am a representative of the news media. Through this request, I am gathering information for my journalistic work with the Star Tribune news media organization. Accordingly, I am only required to pay for the direct cost of duplication after the first 100 pages. 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(ii)(II); id. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iv)(II).

Request for Fee Waiver

Please waive any applicable fees. Release of the information is not primarily in my commercial interest and will contribute significantly to public understanding of government operations and activities. 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii). Our readers should understand in quantifiable terms how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected air travel out of MSP airport to signal how seriously government guidelines and restrictions are being adhered to by Minnesotans.

Request for Expedited Processing

Please provide expedited processing of this request which concerns a matter of urgency. As a daily newspaper journalist, I am primarily engaged in disseminating information. The public has an urgent need

for information about how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected daily life, as both a matter of understanding history, the present situation and as a baseline for future reporting as our country continues to transform amid this crisis. I certify that my statements concerning the need for expedited processing are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Conclusion

If my request is denied in whole or part, please justify all withholdings by reference to specific exemptions and statutes, as applicable. For each withholding please also explain why your agency “reasonably foresees that disclosure would harm an interest protected by an exemption” or why “disclosure is prohibited by law[.]” 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(8)(A)(i).

I would appreciate your communicating with me by email or telephone, rather than by mail.

I look forward to your determination regarding my request for expedited processing within 10 calendar days, as the statute requires.

Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Jeff Hargarten